

Message Text

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42

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2246

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1913

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTIO ENRG IS EG

SUBJECT: NUCLEAR POWER REACTORS

1. DURING CALL ON AMBASSADOR, GE (EUROPEAN OFFICE) VICE PRESIDENT FOXEN, WHO IS BASED IN BRUSSELS, ALSO BROACHED SUBJECT OF EGYPTIAN PLANS TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR REACTORS FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES. IN TALKS WITH VARIOUS EGYPTIAN AEC AND MIN POWER OFFICIALS, HE WAS APPARENTLY TOLD THAT EGYPT HOPES IN DUE COURSE ALSO TO GET FRENCH AND SOVIET REACTORS. HE WAS NOT AS SPECIFIC AS GE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTED REFTEL AS TO WHERE SOVIET NUCLEAR PLANT MIGHT BE LOCATED. HE ASKED WHETHER WE COULD CONFIRM THE FOREGOING.

2. AMBASSADOR TOLD FOXEN WE, TOO, HAVE HAD REPORTS EGYPT IS DISCUSSING WITH FRENCH AND SOVIETS THAT POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING A REACTOR FROM EACH OF THESE COUNTRIES. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE AS TO HOW FAR THESE TALKS HAVE PROGRESSED. SINCE ONE OF PRINCIPAL PURPOSES OF NUCLEAR REACTORS WILL BE TO POWER CONTEMPLATED DESALINIZATION PLANTS, EGYPTIANS HAVE OCCASIONALLY SPOKEN OF PUTTING ONE SUCH REACTOR SOMEWHERE IN SINAI IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR LONG-RANGE PLANS TO DEVELOP THE AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL OF THAT AREA. THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN SPECIFIC WITH US, BUT ABU ARISH OR EGYPTIAN RAFA AREAS WOULD BE LOGICAL LOCATIONS, FOR PLANNING PURPOSES. NOR HAVE THEY EVER SPECIFIED TO US WHICH REACTOR GOES WHERE, ALTHOUGH AGAIN WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO BE SMALLER CAPABILITY OF SOVIET MANUFACTURED NUCLEAR REACTORS MIGHT MAKE SINAI A REASONABLE SITE FOR SUCH A REACTOR. SITUATING ANY EGYPTIAN

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NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR IN SINAI MUST, OF COURSE, DEPEND UPON

RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISARELI PROBLEM.

3. AMBASSADOR IS DINING WITH UNDERSEC OF THE MIN POWER ON
FEB 28 AND WILL AT THAT TIME INQUIRE RE LATEST GOE THINKING ON
NUMBER AND LOCATIONS OF CONTEMPLATED NUCLEAR PLANTS.
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